Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02939 231257Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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HA-05 /075 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9711
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2939

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT IN
SUBJECT: SANJAY GANDHI AND V.C. SHUKLA TO STAND TRIAL
IN "KISSA" CASE

REF: NEW DELHI A-150 (AUGUST 5,1977)

1. AFTER SEVERAL MONTHS OF INTERMITTENT HEARINGS, DELHI'S CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE ON FEBRUARY 22 ORDERED SANJAY GANDHI AND V.C. CHUKLA, FORMER INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING MINISTER TO STAND TRIAL IN THE SESSIONS COURT FOR CONSPIRING TO DESTROY A SATIRICAL HINDI FEATURE FILM DURING THE EMERGENCY. PRESS ACCOUNTS DO NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE TWO ACCUSED WILL STAND TRIAL ON ALL FOUR CHARGES ORIGINALLY FILED IN THE CBI CHARGE SHEET. THESE CHARGES ARE CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY, CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST, MISCHIEF BY FIRE AND DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE, FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANTS COULD BE SENTENCED TO EXTENDED PERIODS OF IMPRISONMENT. SANJAY AND SHUKLA WERE ORDERED TO APPEAR IN SESSIONS COURT ON MARCH 3.

2. THE PROSECUTING AGENCY, THE CBI, CHARGED SANJAY AND
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 02939 231257Z

SHUKLA WITH CONSPIRING TO BURN THE ORIGINAL PRINT AND ALL NEGATIVES OF "KISSA KURSI KA" (THE STORY OF STICKING TO POWER). THE MOVIE WAS PRODUCED AND DIRECTED IN EARLY 1975 BY THEN-DISSIDENT CONGRESS MP AMRIT NAHATA (NOW A JANATA MP) AND PURPORTED TO BE A THINLY-VEILED CONDEMNATION OF MRS. GANDHI'S INCREASING AUTHORITARIANISM PRIOR TO THE EMERGENCY. (NAHATA HAS SINCE

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REMADE THE MOVIE.).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: PINT, IN, (GANDHI, SANJAY), (SHUKLA, V C)
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